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USIB-D-41.14/198
(COMOR-D-13/22)
30 October 1964
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Intelligence Requirements for Satellite Photographic Collection

REFERENCES :
a. USIB-D-41.14/27 (COMOR-D-13/3) 19 April 1963, Limited Distribution; and related papers USIB-D-41.14/28-32 (COMOR-D-13/4-8) Limited Distribution
b. USIB-D-41.14/36 (COMOR-D-13/9) 25 April 1963, Limited Distribution
c. USIB-D-41.15/22 (COMOR-D-48/52) 15 November 1963, Limited Distribution
d. USIB-D-41.13/11 (COMOR-D-13/16) 27 July 1964, Limited Distribution
e. USIB-D-41.13/12 (COMOR-D-13/17) 31 July 1964, Limited Distribution

1. In restricted session at the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) meeting on 28 October, the Chairman referred to a discussion he had with the Secretary of Defense in which Secretary McNamara indicated his impression that there were no general USIB requirements for CORONA-J flights. Mr. McCone said this surprised him very much since USIB has reviewed J coverage almost every week and has recently requested a step-up in the tempo of that coverage.

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NRO Review Completed.

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2. The DCI said that he was confident that there was some USIB statement of requirement or need. In looking at the record, he noted that when the J was replacing the CORONA-M, he had raised the question as to how much coverage would be needed since the J coverage provided about twice the film in the M. A CIA study on this question of 11 September 1963 said that 9 successful J missions in a 12 month period should meet intelligence requirements. Mr. McCone stated that, since at that time a J could not be expected to be as reliable as the M, he had recommended 1 J per month. In discussing the [redacted] at that time, he had agreed on a 25X1
requirement of 1 every forty days because of limitations on launchers or cameras. The Chairman said that he had gone under the impression that these had also been the views of USIB. He questioned whether there was any difference on this point around the Board table.

3. The DIA Member said that he did not know exactly what the Secretary of Defense may have had in mind. General Carroll stated that USIB had not given the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) a fully adequate statement of intelligence requirements on this subject. He noted that the Board had tried to develop long-range intelligence requirements for satellite collection over a year ago (see references a. and b.). General Carroll also noted that we have recently provided a current statement of satellite photographic requirements (see references d. and e.). He felt, however, that there is a need for longer term intelligence requirements, which he thought that the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR) was now studying.

4. The Chairman of COMOR recalled that former Deputy Secretary of Defense Gilpatric had requested postponement of the development of the long-term requirements, stemming from references a. and b., pending review within the Department of Defense. Subsequently USIB had approved a current statement of requirements developed by COMOR (references d. and e.). Mr. Reber said that he understood that COMOR was now free to proceed with the preparation of longer term requirements than those recently approved by USIB.

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5. The DCI said that, following his review of the 11 September 1963 CIA paper previously referred to, he had discussed with the USIB and with Dr. McMillan his views that there should be 1 J per month for the next 12 months, 1 M standby in the event of a J failure, and at the end of a year a review of these requirements. Mr. McCone said that he understood that these were also the views of USIB.* He said that he believed it was now time to make a review of these requirements. The work by COMOR on the longer-term requirements would provide a basis for such a review by USIB.

6. General Stewart, Director of the NRO Staff, observed that NRO would have an input to the work of COMOR on this matter.

7. Based on this discussion, the Chairman proposed, and the Board concurred, that COMOR proceed on its study and recommendations on long-term intelligence requirements for satellite photographic collection.

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Executive Secretary

*As indicated in reference c., the Director NRO briefed USIB at its 14 November 1963 meeting on the Satellite Reconnaissance Program. In that briefing (although not recorded in reference c.) Dr. McMillan stated that the future schedule as planned at that time provided for 1 CORONA-J per month, a CORONA-M on standby, and a 40-day cycle between launches of Reference c., however, did record that "Mr. McCone stated, with the concurrence of the Board, that the future program as presented appeared to meet USIB requirements."

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